



Fidel Castro with Nikita Khrushchev

Cuba, Khrushchev and the 20th CPSU Congress

This Communist University has constantly upheld the central idea within Marx's "Capital" and within Paulo Freire's "Pedagogy of the Oppressed". That idea is the full restoration of the human Subject as an individual, within human society, making humanity out of a material world.

This dialectic of the individual and the collective was most succinctly expressed by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in the following famous words, which we have quoted more than once before, from the Communist Manifesto of 1848:

"... the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all."

The Communist University has also upheld the SACP's

constitutional stricture to “Educate, Organise and Mobilise”. We do so in the conviction that our mission is not to Influence, or to Guide. Such words are used when education is abandoned by those who have no faith in it. “Influence” and “Guide” are only stalking-horses for “Command” and “Control”, when the latter two tyrants are too ashamed to raise their heads.

In its Freirean educational practice, the Communist University has never sought to preach. It has opened doors to dialogue and never closed them. The Communist University codifies, but it does not prescribe.

When education succeeds, and the working class is restored to its full humanity as a Subject of History, then why would any of these insecure and furtive options (Influence, Guiding, Command and Control) be required? None of them will be required.

Hence we say as Communist University: Education is the means by which organising and mobilising are done. Education is more than a preparation for politics. Education is the method of politics and the very substance of politics, which, when considered broadly, excludes all other substances. Education is the essence of humanism.

This message is simple, and the Freirean method of carrying it out is clear. For now, the best illustration of the idea of education as the substance of political practice is Cuba, a country that has become one big university - a “society of knowledge”. Please see the article (download linked below) by Cliff DuRand for an exposition of this concept, including the [“Universalization of the University”](#).

In addition, and to make the same point in a different way, we give (downloadable below) an example and a warning of the manner in which a previous revolutionary upsurge faced the problem of the revolutionary Historical Subject, and failed to solve it, with disastrous consequences.

The [**All-Union Communist Party \(Bolsheviks\), Short Course**](#) (a.k.a. simply “Short Course” was an attempt to create, from the history of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union up to 1937, a totalised theory, free of error, for the Soviet Union itself and for the world communist movement as a whole. We came across it while studying [**Christopher Caudwell**](#) through [**Helena Sheehan**](#), and finding material on [**J D Bernal**](#) and [**J B S Haldane**](#) on Sheehan’s web site. This material mentions the *Short Course* and the failure of the latter two otherwise outstandingly independent-minded communist scientists to oppose it.

The physical torture and elimination of comrades in the Soviet Union were shrouded in secrecy and obscurity, and even the “show trials” that took place were to the Western communist observers problematic because of the confessions of the accused. Yet the CPSU of the day did have to “lay out its stall” in public, as all political organisations are compelled to do. The CPSU did so in the form of the *All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks), Short Course*, and this document gave their game away completely, to anyone with eyes to see. Yet leading Western communists preferred not to see what was in front of their eyes.

The Marxists Internet Archive in 2008 put up the [**All-Union Communist Party \(Bolsheviks\), Short Course**](#) in full for all to

read. In addition it has [Khrushchev's 1956 speech to the 20th Congress of the CPSU](#), denouncing both Stalin and the *Short Course*. An extract from that speech pertaining to the *Short Course* is linked below.

With the *Short Course*, the core reversal or perversion of the CPSU in the Stalin period is laid bare. For a quick grasp of this inversion of communism see the work's [Conclusion](#). Interrogate it with the Fundamental Question of Philosophy, with which we began this 10-part course: How stands the relation between Subject and Object? In the *Short Course*, the Subject of History is not educated, but is “guided”. Herein lies the whole disaster.

It was a practical certainty that the leadership of our South African Revolution would again at some point make the same error of attempting to demolish the popular Subject. Under President Mbeki, that is what happened. It is bound to be the case that another such revolutionary crisis will arrive, perhaps soon. This Communist University course, and the whole of the Communist University initiative, is dedicated to the victory of popular agency in that struggle, and in all such struggles thereafter.

People's Education for People's Power!

Power to the People!

- The above is to introduce the original reading-texts: [Cuba - A Nation Becoming a University, DuRand, MRZine](#), and [Khrushchev, 20th CPSU Congress, 1956, Extracts re 'Short Course'](#).
- To download any of the CU courses in PDF files [please click here](#).